Claim 26:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, wherein at least one of the progressive scanning video cameras outputs a digital data signal to the switch board.

Claim 27:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, wherein the system further comprises a frame grabber.

Claim 28:   The crimp measuring system of claim 27, wherein at least one of the progressive scanning video cameras outputs a video data signal to the switch board.

Claim 29:   The crimp measuring system of claim 28, wherein the video data signal is digitized by the frame grabber after the video signal reaches the switch board.

Claim 30:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, wherein the at least one peripheral device comprises a crimper controller, a tow tension sensor, a light intensity regulator, external data storage, an audio/video alarm device or a combination thereof.

Claim 31:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, wherein the processor and stored program processes the data signals by identifying crimp peaks for crimps having a value exceeding a preset threshold and calculating crimp frequencies between neighboring crimp peaks.

Claim 32:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, wherein the I/O interface comprises at least one data acquisition board.

Claim 33:   The crimp measuring system of claim 32, wherein the at least one data acquisition board comprises sufficient analog and digital channels for I/O communications between the computer and the at least one peripheral device.

Claim 34:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, further comprising a light source positioned proximate to the plurality of progressive scanning video cameras.

Claim 35:   The crimp measuring system of claim 34, wherein the light source illuminates a plurality of fibers in a moving crimped tow.

Claim 36:   The crimp measuring system of claim 34, wherein the stored program operates the light source.

Claim 37:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, further comprising a start-up mode for processing start-up portions of a crimped tow and for signaling a normal condition upon the start-up portions satisfying a predefined criteria.

Claim 38:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, wherein the processor and the stored program divides non-interlaced image into a series of horizontal bands and for establishing an intensity profile of each of the bands by averaging pixel intensity of sequential horizontal lines within each of the bands.

Claim 39:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, wherein the processor and the stored program processes the data as minima and maxima intensity profiles wherein a maxima is labeled as a crimp peak if difference in intensity between the maxima and its two neighboring minima exceeds an operator-specified intensity threshold value.

Claim 40:   The crimp measuring system of claim 24, wherein the processor and the tored program calculates distances of neighboring crimp peaks, compares the distances with operator-specified thresholds, groups the crimp peaks into one of a micro, normal or large categories, and tabulates overall crimp statistics for a non-interlaced image.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Insert the following before "Field of the Invention":

This application is a divisional of allowed application Serial Number 09/621,845 July 24, 2000.

REMARKS

No new matter was added by this preliminary amendment.

Please use 30-5081 DIV (4580) as the docket number for this application.
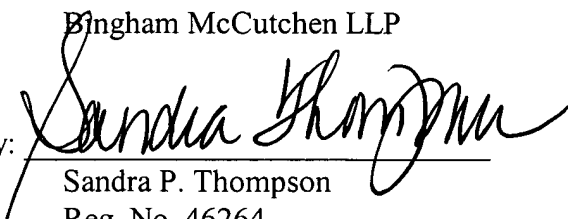
REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 24-40 are pending in this application. The applicants request allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Dated: November 18, 2003   By: _Sandra Thompson_

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